CA2 ALEC 10
A42G
1972
c.2

c. Council
[Briefs]

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
3 3398 00438 8079

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
NOV 18 1974
EDMONTON

alberta
fish & game
association

ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION'S

Presentation to the

PREMIER AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

LIBRARY

AUGUST 31, 1972

< Alta
Lt Exec. Council
[Briefs]

1972-14

LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
NOV 18 1974
EDMONTON
C2

ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION'S

Presentation to the

PREMIER AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

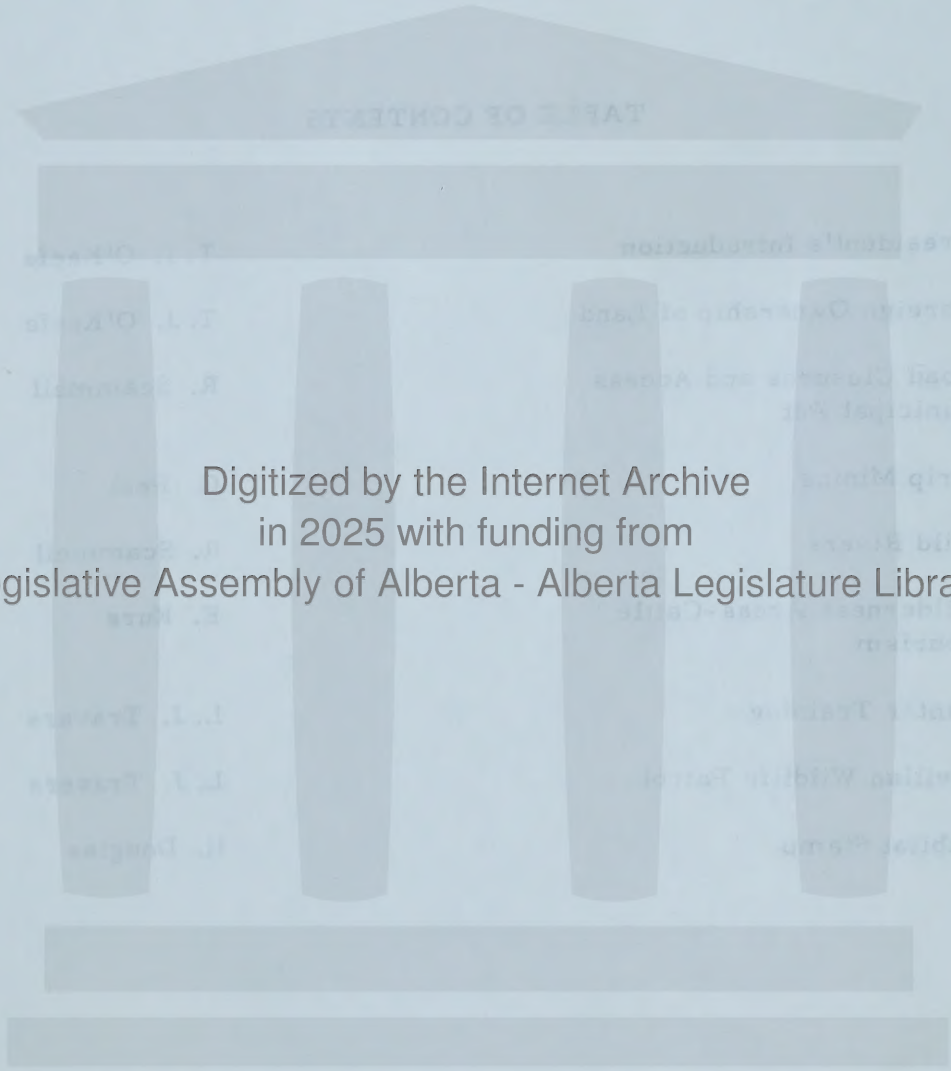
LIBRARY

AUGUST 31, 1972

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Introduction	T. J. O'Keefe
Foreign Ownership of Land	T. J. O'Keefe
Road Closures and Access Municipal Act	R. Scammell
Strip Mining	G. Peel
Wild Rivers	R. Scammell
Wilderness Areas-Cattle Tourism	E. Kure
Hunter Training	L. J. Travers
Civilian Wildlife Patrol	L. J. Travers
Habitat Stamp	H. Douglas



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

https://archive.org/details/ableg_33398004388079

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Introduction	T. J. O'Keefe
Foreign Ownership of Land	T. J. O'Keefe
Road Closures and Access Municipal Act	R. Scammell
Strip Mining	G. Peel
Wild Rivers	R. Scammell
Wilderness Areas-Cattle Tourism	E. Kure
Hunter Training	L. J. Travers
Civilian Wildlife Patrol	L. J. Travers
Habitat Stamp	H. Douglas

August 31, 1972

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

Dear Sirs:

Our Association appreciates the opportunity of the annual meeting with the Premier and members of the Executive Council.

There are many matters of concern to our Association that are the responsibility of Ministers other than the Minister of Lands and Forests with whom we have a continuing liaison.

A number of these items are covered in the accompanying briefs, however, I would like to comment on some further matters that, should time permit, might be discussed at our meeting.

1) Access to the forest reserve areas, and specifically the proposed road south to the Kanaskis from the #1 Highway. We appreciate that various environmental studies have been made on this project and would suggest that access roads to the area should properly be constructed to standards calling for moderate speeds and paving be limited to campground areas, in the vicinity of Ranger stations, road junctions and bridges, and areas where dust and lack of visibility are a safety hazard. Large expenditures could best be used for campground and visitor facilities. The road should be maintained as a scenic route enabling those using it to enjoy a wilderness experience. Should further upgrading of the road be carried out this should only be done following the planning and provision of adequate visitor facilities in the way of campgrounds

4) The Department of Highways and Transport initiated a comprehensive study of stream and river access in the Calgary area. The findings and remedies were discussed and published. A beginning was made on the removal of illegal restrictions to various streams and rivers and a start was made on the provision of facilities to alleviate the problems and pressures on the adjacent landowners. There has been no visible activity on this for the past twelve months.

We strongly urge you to continue with the provision of access and facilities on public land to give the citizens the ability to get to these public waterways and lakes.

5) The Provincial Parks are being asked to fill an expanding, and in many cases incompatable role, on behalf of the citizens of the Province. A recent advertisement indicates the Administration is preparing to make a complete reassessment of the role these parks play in the recreational needs of the province. We would suggest that in addition to Provincial Parks, that recreational areas be established for the many outdoor activities not suited to the historical, recreational or other special values of many parks and which are restricted by the small size of many Provincial Parks.

For the use of snowmobiles, trail bikes and other forms of ATV's it would seem that adjacent or other large areas of crown lands, and in particular grazing leases, could be designated for this use at

times when this activity would not be competative with the prime use of the area.

We hope that this group and the members of the legislature will give full consideration to these additional items.

T. J. O'Keefe
President

- NOTES -

FORFIGN OWNERSHIP OF LAND IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

Our Association is particularly concerned with aliens and non-resident Canadians acquiring land in the Province of Alberta where this action results in the withdrawal of areas from public use for recreational purposes.

Attempts have been made in the past to lease large tracts of wilderness for the establishment of hunting and fishing areas which would have resulted in the exclusion of residents except as paying customers, although this problem has been partly solved by prohibition of the transfer of leases on Crown land to non-residents. Crown land may be sold to Canadians or British subjects and there is no provision to prevent the subsquent sale to aliens or non-residents.

In agricultural areas the problem has occured mainly in the east central areas of the Province where the practice has been used to acquire rights to land for the hunting of geese and pheasants. A recent survey prepared for the Province of Alberta refers to the purchase of land in the central west, northwest, and northeast for recreational purposes. This type of purchase is particularly noticable in the Calgary area. Of particular interest to non-residents in this and other areas are lands bordering on rivers, lakes or streams which would effectively elliminate access to these recreational areas. In addition to these actions in Alberta restrictive laws in other Provinces, particularly British Columbia and Saskatchewan, will

cause increaing pressure on the available land in Alberta.

For these reasons we would like to recommend that the following steps be taken:

1) A continuing assessment should be made of the amount of land acquired by non-residents (a minimum of 48 sections in 1970). The Land Holdings Disclosure Act of the Province of Nova Scotia is an excellent example of the type of legislation which would result in a complete disclosure of a purchasers residence.

2) The Province of Alberta should immediately pass legislation preventing any further outright sales to anyone of Crown land in the Province of Alberta and providing that Crown land may be based from the Province of Alberta under rigid controls as to its use.

3) Legislation should be prepared which would restrict the leasing of privately owned land to aliens whether individuals, partnerships or corporations.

T. J. O'Keefe
President
Alberta Fish & Game Ass'n

- NOTES -

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

ROAD CLOSURES AND NO-SHOOTING BY-LAWS

TO THE HONOURABLE PREMIER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Since its passage in 1968, our Association has asked for the repeal of Sections 169 and 175 of "The Municipal Government Act."

Briefly, these sections place the management and control of public highways, roads, etc., in the hands of the municipality in which they are located, and Section 175 then sets out a procedure whereby a council of a municipality may pass by-laws for the closing streets, roads, public highways, etc.

The figures are not available to us, but it would be interesting indeed to know how many miles of public road allowances have been taken from the public of this province to whom they belong since these two sections were passed in 1968. Our Association is opposed to legislation such as this on the principle that it should be difficult, very difficult, instead of easy to take public land away from the people who own it and give it for a song to private individuals.

Our Association is also opposed to these two sections on the more specific grounds that they have resulted in the closure and leasing to private individuals of many undeveloped road allowances in this province which provide the only access to the public to other "public lands" belonging to the people, including particularly rivers, lakes and streams in this province. Lastly, and an objection that has appealed to certain municipal councils in this province, the undeveloped road allowances in many areas of the province provide the only good game cover left in areas of extensive agricultural activity.

The Department of Lands and Forests has definitely not been pleased with Sections 169 and 175, and we have co-operated with them in regard to tempering the effect of Sections 169 and 175 with some sort of intelligence by dealing with municipal councils and county councils directly. The result of such co-operation

. . . /2

has been the information that most municipalities consider the applications they get to lease road allowances to be expensive nuisances, and would just as soon have this matter back in the hands of the Department of Lands and Forests where it should be, and many are taking the position that if they receive any opposition whatever to the leasing of a road allowance, then it will not be leased.

One county, at least, the County of Red Deer, has followed the practice of advising the Red Deer Regional Office of the Department of Lands and Forests of road allowance lease applications, and gives the Department the opportunity to object on the grounds that the allowance provides good wildlife habitat or provides access to other public land, including rivers, lakes and streams. The fact that it is necessary to work out extra-legal compromises simply means that the procedures set out in Sections 169 and 175 are not adequate to protect the public interest. For one reason alone, very few people ever read the legal advertisements whereby it is announced that by-laws concerning the closing of road allowances will be considered.

I have been asked for and given my legal opinion in various quarters that if any single road allowance closing and leasing were challenged in court, it would be quashed as being beyond the power of the municipality to pass a by-law leasing and closing what in effect is public land, without the express consent of the Minister of Lands and Forests as well as the express consent of the Minister of Highways.

The peculiar thing about both Sections 169 and 175 is that when we had the first opportunity to present our objections to these sections to the cabinet in July of 1969, all the Ministers there assembled expressed complete amazement and mystification as to why the sections were passed in the first place.

To demonstrate the lack of thought that went into these sections, I need only quote for you Section 169 (3):

> "Subject to every other Act, a council has the control and management of the public highways, roads, streets, lanes, alleys, bridges, rivers, streams, water courses, lakes and other bodies of water within the municipality, including the air space above and the ground below."

I well recall bringing to the attention of the Honourable Henry Ruste when he was Minister of Agriculture, responsible for water resources in the Province, that the Government had given away the control and management of the rivers, streams, water courses and lakes in the Province to the local governments, and he turned even whiter than he usually was in those days. If it is ridiculous to have turned the management and control of assets as important as rivers, streams, water courses and lakes over to the local governments, it is every bit as ridiculous to have done the same with public rights of way.

We still suggest that Sections 169 and 175 should be repealed, and the control and management of the roadways, etc., in the Province should be put back into the hands of the Minister of Highways and the Minister of Lands and Forests. Failing that, we would then suggest that the public interest would be much protected if in the procedures by which road allowances are closed and leased a safeguard were set up whereby no such closures would be made without the express consent of the Minister of Lands and Forests and without first having received the approval of the local divisional office of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests with regard to the particular road.

****

For some reason an even more ill-considered section of "The Municipal Government Act" of 1968 did not rear its ugly head until this past year. I refer, of course, to Section 152 (d) of "The Municipal Government Act" which states:

> "The council may pass by-laws prohibiting the discharge of guns or other fire arms in any specified part or parts of the municipality."

As far as I can ascertain, five municipalities in the Province of Alberta, most of them bordering the two larger cities in Alberta, have now passed or are considering varying degrees of by-law under the authority of Section 152 (d).

As I prepare this report, I have before me a proposed by-law of the county of Strathcona, Number 20, wherein they purport to prohibit the discharge of fire arms within the boundaries of the entire county, and then purport to exclude from the operation of the by-law those persons who discharge fire arms on privately owned lands which they own or legally occupy or those who have written permission from the owner, etc., and then they purport to decide that those people shooting under that kind of permission or on their own land can only use a shotgun or a .22 calibre rifle. A number of jokes come to the mind of a lawyer about a by-law such as this, purporting to be passed under the authority of Section 152 (d), but I shall restrain myself, as anyone can see that the whole by-law is a complete abuse of the power given to a local government by a senior government under Section 152 (d). In fact, the only utterance I am aware that the Honourable Mr. Dave Russell Minister of Municipal Affairs has made concerning section 152 (d) of his act is that it did not appear to him that the municipal governments were using the authority in the section for the purpose for which it was intended.

To put it bluntly, the section has become a very powerful weapon against law-abiding hunters that has been put into the hands of a very few disgruntled property owners in certain municipalities.

Indeed, when the county or municipality purports to prohibit the discharge of fire arms within the county on any public lands in the county, which includes, of course, road allowances, the whole thing becomes an absurd illegality and an interesting study in unconstitutionality. If I hold a license to hunt on land to which I have a perfect right of access as I do to public land, then I fail to understand how any local by-law can prevent me for discharging a fire arm on that public land.

Legalities aside, it is our position that a section such as section 152 (d) is ineffective, and probably illegal, and does nothing but stir up additional problems for the government in the increasingly difficult situation of land owner-hunter and land owner-vandal relationships. It is our suggestion that more specific steps can be taken by the senior government itself regarding the imposition of proper protection for the land owners, and in fact many such steps have been taken in the new Game Hunting Regulations recently announced and other presentations at this meeting will deal with what our Association is prepared to do in co-operation with the government about this problem. Unlike the situation with Sections 169 and 175, our Association cannot make any suggestion short of absolute repeal, and would ask that the earliest possible steps be taken for the repeal of Section 152 (d).

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. Scammell - Vice-President
Alberta Fish and Game Association

- NOTES -

STRIP MINING - EASTERN SLOPES

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

One of the main concerns of our organization is the retention of habitat for wildlife. In dealing with the eastern slopes of our mountains there is a misconception that no matter what areas are disturbed for other uses, there are vast untouched areas left for wildlife. This is not true when we speak of fish habitat, silted streams will not support fish life, and streams where the tree cover and bank overhang is disturbed will not support fish life.

Big Game species depend for their existence on ground forage and aspen which comprise only 10% of the total area normally called eastern slopes. It is then this 10% that we are concerned with when we look at the total area. In respect to some particular species this 10% of total has already shrunk to 5% of total because of other uses.

Government and industry has in the past only looked at one disturbing activity at a time and the attitude has been that the percentage of 100% can hardly be measured, but if we looked at the disturbance as a percentage of the 10% we would be considering a different picture.

We have previously suggested in our presentation at the Public Hearings on the Impact on the Environment of Surface Mining in Alberta in December 1971, that before final decisions are reached regarding land utilization, that the Environmental Conservation Authority should consider strip mining, road building, seismic

operations, forest industries, cattle grazing, damming for power production and disposal of overburden from strip mines. Only when the effects of all these potential activities are considered can we realize the overall effect on our environment that is being created.

It is our belief that we must preserve the watersheds of our eastern slopes. It is also our belief that if biological studies were conducted at this point in time, we would realize the 10% critical habitat of 10 years ago is the 6 to 7% remaining suitable habitat of today. The critical ranges are we believe known to both the biologists of the Department of Lands and Forests Wildlife Branch and also to the biologists of the Canadian Wildlife Service. We feel that these critical areas must be protected from further erosion at all costs.

Our organization has previously made submissions to government specifically related to the coal industry.

On October 13, 1970, we submitted a letter to the Premier of Alberta and appended to this letter was a copy of "An Investigation of Coal Exploration Operations at Grande Cache, Alberta", commissioned by the Alberta Fish and Game Association and done by Renewable Resource Consulting Services Limited. We attached a copy of the recommendations contained in the report by Renewable Resources. (see Appendix A) A further survey done in December 1971 confirmed that wildlife do in winter depend on the alpine meadows for feed.

Copies of the referenced material and additional material

submitted to the Public Hearing in December 1971 should be available in the Environmental Conservation Authority Offices.

It is our belief that this material we have previously submitted relates to not only the activities on the McIntyre Porcupine leases in the Grande Cache area, but to other mountain areas where strip mining is being carried out.

Our organization notes that in the last session of the legislature Bill 64, The Surface Rights Act was introduced and this Act makes reference to the Surface Reclamation Act.

It is however, our contention that the Surface Reclamation Act in its present form really has no proper application in most areas of the eastern slopes. Or that the reclamation measures outlined in the Act offer no real protection to a foothills or mountain environment.

Strip mining in the mountains is a fact of life and yet there are no published regulations to cover how and where it shall be carried out. The public has expressed concern, some operators indicate they are prepared to try to protect the environment, but it is a ball game with no rules and really no umpire.

Our organization has spent considerable time and money in attempting to adopt a logical attitude to strip mining and we wish to re-iterate that we feel there are areas where the economic benefits of strip mining are certainly questionable.

We would feel that the following points should receive immediate and urgent consideration:

submitted to the Public Hearing in December 1971 should be available in the Environmental Conservation Authority Offices.

It is our belief that this material we have previously submitted relates to not only the activities on the McIntyre Porcupine leases in the Grande Cache area, but to other mountain areas where strip mining is being carried out.

Our organization notes that in the last session of the legislature Bill 64, The Surface Rights Act was introduced and this Act makes reference to the Surface Reclamation Act.

It is however, our contention that the Surface Reclamation Act in its present form really has no proper application in most areas of the eastern slopes. Or that the reclamation measures outlined in the Act offer no real protection to a foothills or mountain environment.

Strip mining in the mountains is a fact of life and yet there are no published regulations to cover how and where it shall be carried out. The public has expressed concern, some operators indicate they are prepared to try to protect the environment, but it is a ball game with no rules and really no umpire.

Our organization has spent considerable time and money in attempting to adopt a logical attitude to strip mining and we wish to re-iterate that we feel there are areas where the economic benefits of strip mining are certainly questionable.

We would feel that the following points should receive immediate and urgent consideration:

1) There are no adequate regulations to cover strip mining in the mountain areas of Alberta

2) It is impossible to reclaim or even minimize the permanent damage that has been created in some mountain areas of Alberta.

3) Strip mining should not be allowed in any areas that are critical summer and winter range for wildlife and that are impossible to reclaim with any technology yet developed.

4) Strip mining should not be allowed in any areas where the overburden cannot be contained in such a manner as to prevent erosion.

5) The overlapping effect of all resource users should be considered in making regulations that affect our environment.

6) An economic survey should be undertaken to evaluate the economic benefits of the coal industry in Alberta.

7) A secondary coking industry should be developed so that the refined products can be exported instead of the raw coal.

Many other views have been expressed at Public Hearings and we would request that the drawing up of new regulations be given most urgent consideration and priority. We request that in considering these regulations the value of wildlife in all forms be given equal consideration with other resource uses.

Thank you

Gordon Peel
Immediate Past President
Alberta Fish & Game Ass'n

Appendix A

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

1) A research program to assess the requirements of complete restoration on disturbed sites should be initiated by McIntyre Porcupine Mines Limited. Studies should emphasize requirements for soil stabilization in mountainous terrain, with particular reference to finding suitable plant species for reseeding and revegetating alpine areas.

2) Long range comprehensive plans should be developed which will describe in detail the reclamation work which is to be carried out by McIntyre Porcupine Mines Limited. Restoration plans should be integrated with both exploration and mining activities to ensure that environmental considerations are concomitant with industrial activity.

3) Restoration plans should be made available to the Department of Lands and Forests for study and approval prior to the onset of stripping operations or the establishment of new exploration areas.

4) Immediate restoration of areas disturbed during exploration activities to date should be carried out. While complete restoration on those disturbed areas to be strip mined within one year may not be feasible, steps should be taken to prevent soil erosion within these areas.

5) An information and education program should be initiated within the McIntyre Porcupine organization to outline the requirements

and reasons for proper garbage disposal. In addition, such a program should encompass methods of industrial operation which will result in the least possible damage to the environment.

6) The government of Alberta should make sufficient funds and manpower available to adequately enforce legislation pertaining to strip mining in Alberta.

7) Since there is a profound need for more comprehensive and detailed legislation governing strip mining and reclamation of strip mined areas within the province, it is recommended that the government of Alberta develop such legislation at the earliest possible date. There is a particular need for specifications pertaining to strip mining in mountainous areas.

8) It is recommended that the Alberta Fish and Game Association initiate a program of public information regarding the long term ramifications of strip mining in the mountainous areas of the province.

9) It is recommended that a cost benefit analysis be conducted on strip mining operations in the province with particular reference to determining those costs borne by the public in terms of long term losses of wildlife and recreational values. Such a study should specifically define those costs associated with strip mining which are externalized by existing mining programs. In addition, the study should endeavor to provide guidelines as to what funds must be made available for adequate reclamation programs.

10) It is recommended that immediate steps be taken to require retention of overburden and top soil at all excavations separate from exposed coal to ensure adequate restoration following backfilling and reseeding.

- NOTES -

WILD RIVERS PROPOSAL

TO THE HONOURABLE PREMIER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It is going on five years now since the delegates at the 1968 convention of the Alberta Fish and Game Association unanimously resolved to request the Government of the day to pass a Wild Rivers Act, whereby certain Alberta rivers and streams and portions of them would be set aside to remain in perpetuity in their natural state.

It is going on four years now since the annual convention of the Alberta Fish and Game Association, in February of 1969, unanimously adopted its Wild Rivers Policy Statement, a copy of which is attached hereto.

In the intervening years the Association has presented the proposal to two former Ministers of Lands and Forests in the former Government, and once to the cabinet of the former Government in July of 1969. The Association had initially considered the prospect of drafting its own legislation and submitting it as a private bill in the legislature, and rejected that procedure as a procedure to be adopted only as a last resort, it being far preferable for an organization such as ours to operate through the usual channels of government.

In December of 1971 our Association was privileged to meet with the Honourable Allan Warrack, the first Minister of Lands and Forests in the new Government, and the idea was again presented to Doctor Warrack at that time.

Throughout the procedure of establishing our Wild Rivers Policy we have taken the position that we must consult with people all over the province with regard to suggestions for rivers and streams to be studied for possible inclusion in a Wild Rivers Bill, simply because we wished to assist the Government as much as possible with the groundwork that must be done, It is for this reason that the schedule of suggested rivers and streams and portions of them is so lengthy in our policy statement, and we would advise you that the support of the general

. . . /2

public that the concept has received since we first conceived it has been most encouraging, and this support and interest continues to this day, I having personally received inquiries for information concerning our Wild Rivers proposal from three substantial private organizations in Alberta in the last year and one very influential government organization.

Indeed, the concept of preservation of wild rivers in Alberta has met with nothing but enthusiastic response from everyone to whom it has been presented. The Honourable Henry Ruste was enthusiastic, even at the time when he was both Minister of Lands and Forests and Minister of Agriculture and in that latter capacity responsible for our water resources. The Honourable J. Donovan Ross, former Minister of Lands and Forests, was enthusiastic. Mr. Reg Bailey, Director of the Water Resources Division is enthusiastic. The entire cabinet that we met with in 1969 expressed themselves as being exceptionally enthusiastic. Nothing, however, continues to result from our efforts at preservation of wild rivers in Alberta.

As an indication of how close we have come, how promises have been broken, and so you might understand our feeling of frustration at this point, I quote to you from a letter dated May 5th, 1970, addressed to myself by the Honourable J. Donovan Ross, Minister of Lands and Forests:

> "The Water Resources Act was not completed in time to be introduced at the last session of the Legislature. I understand that this Act will be introduced at the next Session of the Legislature and that the proposed new Act does contain adequate provisions to cover most of what was proposed in connection with the Wild Rivers Bill."

Needless to say I scrutinized with some interest the amendments to the Water Resources Act passed in the 1971 Legislature, however I must advise you if there are provisions there to cover anything at all of what is proposed in connection with our Wild Rivers Policy, then it is so extremely well hidden that a lawyer from Red Deer, let alone one from Philadelphia cannot find it.

. . . /3

As we say, we made the proposal again to the Honourable Allan Warrack on December 30th, 1971, and Doctor Warrack received the proposal with interest and agreed to refer the matter through the Honourable W. J. Yurko, Minister of the Environment, to the Conservation and Utilization Committee. I have every reason to believe that Doctor Warrack did exactly as he said he would, as I have received his memo dated December 21st, 1971, to Mr. Yurko.

What happened after that point is something about which I cannot advise you, as I do not know by reason of information on which I can rely that the matter was brought to the attention of the Conservation and Utilization Committee, I can only say by way of rumor that the matter was indeed brought to the attention of this Committee and it was treated in an extremely cavalier fashion in effect:

> "The Alberta Fish and Game Association must be crazy if they think we are going to turn all those rivers into wild rivers."

If the rumors are true, we feel that the least that could have been done was to seek some confirmation from the Association which would have easily been forthcoming, that we do not in the least expect all the suggestions in our schedule to be made wild rivers; what we expect is for the machinery to be set up for the creation of wild rivers, as machinery has now been set up for the creation of wilderness areas, and then that some work be done selecting which pieces of water shall receive the protection of the legislation that is set up. At the very least, we would have appreciated hearing first hand the views of the Conversation and Utilization Committee on what we consider to be a matter of grave importance to the people of the Province of Alberta.

On the basis of our contact with the people of the Province of Alberta, we feel that this matter is also of grave concern to the Government of the people of the Province of Alberta, insofar as the idea of wild rivers protection in Alberta is unanimously accepted by everyone to whom we make the proposal as an excellent

. . . /4

idea, and it is an idea for Government action which apparently does not cost a great deal of money. We have been most impressed by the reception the idea has been given by two separate and distinct Governments, and can only conclude that action is blocked by civil servants who either do not know how or do not wish to do the work involved in drafting legislation aimed at protecting certain of our waters in their natural state.

We do not wish in any way to give the impression that we are making threats, but we do believe we have waited a considerable length of time for some tangible action in this particular area. We do have resource people who are willing to do the work necessary to draft a finished piece of legislation protecting certain rivers and streams in Alberta, and unless we receive some tangible assurance regarding government action in this area we may have to resort to our last resort, and that is to take the very unusual step of presenting a wild rivers bill to the full legislature as a private bill.

We sincerely do not wish to take this latter step, as our philosophy in this area remains the same as it always is that it is better for good ideas to be presented to the legislature by the Government of the day, simply from the practical standpoint of the chances of such legislation being passed.

Respectively submitted,

R. H. Scammell - Chairman,
Wild Rivers Committee
Alberta Fish and Game Association

POLICY STATEMENT NO. 2.4

WILD RIVERS

The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that at present the recreational use of Alberta's running water - our rivers and streams - is now at least as important as the agricultural, domestic and industrial uses to which it is now being put and that in future the value for recreational use of free running water will probably exceed its value for these other purposes. Therefore this Association is committed to the policy that it is essential that as much consideration be given now in Alberta's water resource planning process to preserving some free flowing rivers, streams, and portions thereof as is now being given to the damming and diverting of our rivers and streams for the purpose of agricultural, domestic and industrial use.

Prior to 1967 concern grew in this Association that the many dams and water diversions being planned in Alberta could eventually have the effect of seriously depleting the free-running waters themselves and the public funds of assets that are often found in combination with free running water.

The object of the concern was to find some way of attaining three objects:

1. Indicating to the Alberta Government that a significant group of Albertans regard free running rivers and streams as priceless assets;

2. Advising the Alberta Government as to which rivers, streams, and portions thereof are considered by Albertans from all parts of the Province most worth preserving in their natural state;

3. Suggesting a method by which streams, rivers and portions thereof can be protected and preserved in their natural state for the use of the future and present generations.

At the 1967 Convention of this Association in Edmonton a way of attaining at least objectives 1 and 3 suddenly appeared in the form of the following resolution:

> "Be it resolved that this Association requests the Alberta Government to embark on a Wild Rivers project whereby certain Alberta Rivers and streams and portions of Alberta rivers and streams are reserved and set aside to remain in perpetuity in their natural state, untouched by the projects of Government, Power Companies, Industry in general or by private individuals."

Seldom has a resolution so taken the imagination of our Association, and it was passed unanimously. Little indication was received officially, however, as to whether or not a Wild Rivers Act was regarded favorably by the Government, so the same resolution was again passed unanimously at the 1968 Convention of the Association in Lethbridge with the added recommendation that active steps be taken by our Association to secure passage of a Wild Rivers Act.

Endorsation of our Wild Rivers resolution late in June of last year by the Western Canada Conservation and Reclamation Association, indicates the idea appeals to at least one other large group whose emphasis on water conservation differs somewhat from that of our Association.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association Wild Rivers Committee has now, as a result of consultation with people throughout the Province, produced the list, marked Schedule "A" to this Policy Statement of thirty-eight Alberta rivers, streams, and portions thereof that should be included in a Wild Rivers Act. In addition, the recommendation of the Committee and of this Association is that the list of Wild Rivers should never be closed, and that studies should be carried out constantly to ascertain what other Alberta rivers, streams, and portions thereof should receive the protection of designation as a Wild River.

Many of the initial choices on Schedule "A" are attempts to preserve unique values: Greyburn and Battle Creeks to preserve the furthest east trout streams in Alberta; the portions of the Oldman and Castle Rivers to preserve one of Alberta's last native cutthroat populations; Ghostpine Creek to preserve the unique scenery and fossil beds to be found along it; Shunda Creek to preserve an as yet unspoiled example of the muskeg creeks indigenous to Central Alberta, this one also providing as choice fly fishing as is available in North America; two separate sections of the Red Deer River, a bad lands section for the beauty of its scenery; the section upstream from Sundre to preserve what experts regard as the most challenging piece of canoe water in Canada. All choices protect magnificent scenic and recreational values.

The need for the protection of Wild Rivers is currently being recognized in other jurisdictions. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has at last become law in the United States. Montana has enacted provisions to protect rivers and streams and Ontario is moving toward giving provincial park status to certain running bodies of water in that province. Surely with a Government now committed in the White Paper to a course of development of all our resources to derive the maximum human values therefrom, the time is now advantageous for the Alberta Government to confer protection of law on certain Alberta Rivers, streams and portions thereof to preserve the recreational and scenic assets of

the waters and their immediate surroundings for the people of this province now and in the future.

After an extensive study of Wild River Bills from other jurisdictions our Association suggests that protection of the rivers, streams and portions thereof set out in Schedule "A" be effected by conferring on them, by a Wild Rivers Act, status akin to that conferred on certain lands by The Provincial Parks Act.

Protection to running waters, their beds and shores can be conferred here more easily and inexpensively than in many other jurisdictions because in Alberta the beds and shores are owned by the Crown. For ideal protection of a river or stream, some concept would have to be set out in the Act as to the number of areas of bank per mile of stream that would also be included in the protected area. For example, the new American Wild Rivers Bill provides that no more than an average of 320 acres per mile on both sides of the river or stream would be required for the protection of the stream. Again, many of the waters set out in Schedule "A" flow entirely through Crown land so there would be little trouble and expense involved in acquisition of the immediate surroundings.

Some other waters in the Schedule flow through privately owned land so consideration would have to be given in the Act to providing for purchase and expropriation of land where required for Wild Rivers designation.

The Act would, of course, have to contain many prohibitions against damming, diverting, polluting or otherwise fouling the waters of a Wild River and against doing anything on the banks such as logging and grazing which would be injurious to the Wild River or its watershed. The Public Lands Act, 1966 and The Water Resources Act provide precedents for legislation protecting waters and watersheds.

Finally, this Association urges that when a Wild Rivers Act becomes fact and becomes law it should provide that when a Wild River is designated, jurisdiction over the waters in it be passed from the Minister of Agriculture to the Minister of Lands and Forests to go with the jurisdiction over the bed and the bank that the Minister of Lands and Forests already has under The Public Lands Act, 1966.

The urgency is particularly great in this matter at a time in Alberta's development when extensive plans are being made for the damming and diverting of many of our provincial rivers and streams. Unless provision is made now for the protection of the truly valuable public assets among our rivers and streams and their immediate surroundings, great recreational

opportunities and scenic values may be lost to present and future Albertans.

Accordingly, it is the policy of this Association to urge that the Government immediately commence a study of the recommendations and proposals in this Policy Statement with a view, within 6 months, to advising the Association on the feasibility of introducing a Wild Rivers Bill into the 1970 session of the legislature, and that the Government study include an examination of the suitability of the Rivers, streams and portions thereof set out in Schedule "A" hereof for inclusion into the Wild Rivers Act.

The Policy of this Association further is to offer and give the relevant departments of government such assistance as we are capable of to ensure that a Wild Rivers Bill be introduced as a Government Bill in the next session of the legislature. In this regard, the Association requests an early meeting with representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Division and the Water Resources Branch to discuss this policy statement in light of present water-use plans of the Government.

For further clarification as to our determination in this matter, the policy of this Association is that, failing Government action and assistance, we shall continue our efforts unilaterally to ensure introduction of a Wild Rivers Bill in any event, as a Government Bill or otherwise, into the next session of the legislature.

Finally, it is our hope, and we would urge, that any Wild Rivers Act would contain a statement of purpose similar to that admirable statement set out as Section 4 of Alberta's Willmore Wilderness Park Act which, when paraphrased and mixed slightly with the very similar Section 4 of The National Parks Act could produce the following for an Alberta Wild Rivers Act:

> "The Wild Rivers are dedicated to the use of the people of Alberta, for their benefit, education and enjoyment, subject to this Act and the Regulations, and shall, by the management, conservation and protection of their beds, banks, and waters, and by the preservation of their natural beauties, be maintained and be made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations,"

which statement, when and if the Government enacts it, accurately states the present general policy of this Association on Wild Rivers.

SCHEDULE A

2.4.1 Battle Creek. (49' 38" 110' 00") Within Cypress Hills Park, Watershed.

2.4.2 Greyburn Creek. (Flows NE into Battle Creek, 14-8-1-W4 49' 38" 110' 01") Within Cypress Hills Park, Watershed.

2.4.3 Milk River. (1-1-5-W4 49' 00" 110' 33") From West boundary of Writing in Stone Park to the U.S. Border, Crown Land on either side. Most important part is from Range 9 W4 to the U.S. Border.

2.4.4 Castle River. (Flows NE into Oldman River 27-7-30 W4 49' 36" 113' 59") Watershed upstream from the Carbondale River, including all tributaries.

2.4.5 Oldman River. (27-11-13-W4 49' 57" 111' 42") Upstream from the Forest Boundary including all tributaries and full watershed.

2.4.6 Highwood River. (Flows NE into Bow River 26-21-28-W4 50' 49" 113' 47") Upstream from Forest Reserve boundary including all tributaries and full watershed areas.

2.4.7 South Saskatchewan River. (50' 53" 110' 00") From south eastcorner of British Block downstream to Saskatchewan border on east bank area, not in the restricted area.

2.4.8 Ghostpine Creek. (Flows SE into Red Deer River. 34-29-21-W4 51' 32" 112' 54") From the Red Deer River upstream for the section which is in the Badlands area as far north as the road east from Morrin.

2.4.9 Cottonwood Creek. (Flows S into Galwey Creek, 2-29-W4 49' 08" 113' 51") Below reservoir for approximately 3 or 4 miles.

2.4.10 Clearwater River. (16-39-7-W5 52' 22" 114' 57") From park boundary to forest reserve boundary.

2.4.11 South Ram and watershed. (Flows NE into Saskatchewan River 39-10-W5 52' 23" 115' 25").

2.4.12 Panther and Red Deer Rivers. (Panther flow NE into Red Deer 31-10-W5 51' 39" 115' 19", Red Deer 50' 58" 110' 00") from National Park boundary to the edge of the forest reserve.

2.4.13 Blackstone River. (Blackstone River flows NE into Brazeau 52' 50" 116' 07") and tributaries including the Wapiabi Creek (flows NE into Blackstone 42-17-W5 52' 37" 116' 20") and Cardinal Creek (flows E into Brazeau 52' 52" 117' 18").

2.4.14 Shunda Creek (flows E into N Saskatchewan 40-13-W5 52' 28" 115' 47").

2.4.15 Battle River areas (49' 38" 110' 00") from Hardisty to the Saskatchewan Border.

2.4.16 Red Deer River (50' 58" 110' 00") in the vicinity of the Badlands Park, comprising areas both up and downstream from the park.

2.4.17 Elbow River (14-24-1-W5 51' 03" 114' 02") flows east into Bow River.

2.4.18 Sheep River (32-20-28-W4 50' 44" 113' 51") flows east into Highwood River.

2.4.19 Dutch Creek (11-3-W5 49' 54" 114' 23") flows east into Oldman River.

2.4.20 Cataract Creek (16-5-W5 50' 24" 114' 35") flows north into Highwood River.

2.4.21 Tay River (35-8-W5 52' 03" 115' 05') flows east into Clearwater River.

2.4.22 Raven River (28-35-3-W5 52' 02" 114' 22") flows SE into Red Deer River.

2.4.23 House River (56' 12" 112' 30") flows NW into Athabasca River.

2.4.24 Clearwater River (56' 44" 111' 23") flows east into Athabasca.

2.4.25 La Biche River (31-69-18-W4 55' 01" 112' 44") flows west into Athabasca River.

2.4.26 Sand River (19-62-7-W4 54' 23" 111' 02") flows south into Beaver River.

2.4.27 Brazeau (45-9-W5 52' 56" 115' 12") flows east into North Saskatchewan.

2.4.28 Wolf Creek (54-16-W5 53' 38" 116' 17") flows north into McLeod River.

2.4.29 McLeod River (59-12-W5 54' 09" 115' 42") flows north east into Athabasca.

2.4.30 Bow River (22-11-13-W4 49' 51" 111' 41") flows east into Oldman River.

2.4.31 Stauffer Creek (16-34-4-W5 52' 05" 114' 30") flows SE into Raven River.

2.4.32 Smokey (18-83-21-W5 56' 11" 117' 19") flows north into Peace River.

2.4.33 Wapiti (7-71-2-W6 55' 08" 118' 18") flows north east into Smokey River.

2.4.34 Whitemud (36-51-25-W4 53' 27" 113' 33") flows north into Black mud creek.

2.4.35 Chinchaga (58' 53" 118' 20") flows north into the Hay River.

2.4.36 Wabasca (58' 22" 115' 20") flows north into Peace River.

2.4.37 Berland (58-25-W5) - (tributary of the Athabasca).

2.4.38 Simonette - (tributary of the Smokey) - (68-26-W5).

- NOTES -

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

I have been asked to bring to your attention three areas of concern, these being Wilderness Areas, Grazing of Domestic Stock particularly on the east slopes Forest Reserves and promotion of Tourism in Alberta.

In dealing with the matter of Wilderness Areas, I should inform Members of the Council I was a member of the Advisory Committee required under Section Two of the Wilderness Act. It would be less than honesty on our part if we did not inform Council of our disappointment that you did not see fit to pass the amendments to Bill 67. It is also of concern that the Advisory Committee has been dismissed and the works of examination of new areas and consideration of regulations for wilderness by this committee suspended.

Attached to this statement is a policy sheet concerning a brief of the background as well as the philosophy and recommendations for Wilderness Areas. If you read this general policy proposal you will note that our Association was instrumental in getting a former Minister of Lands and Forests to convene a meeting to consider setting up Wilderness Areas, that meeting was May 25th, 1960 in Red Deer. I only refer to this piece of history to make a point, that being that the Wilderness concept is not new, the need for them is well established and it would be our sincere hope, Sir, that your Government would proceed at the earliest moment in the consideration and implementation

of Wilderness Areas in this Province.

My second subject is that of Grazing of Domestic Stock, particularly on east slopes Forest Reserves. I should say this subject has been presented to Dr. Warrack some months ago by our Association and I will try to be brief here. Our Association for well over twenty years, has strongly opposed grazing of stock on the east slopes where such livestock was using winter game range or causing damage to stream banks.

We believe that with the tremendous demands for wildlife and recreation to-day, that all public owned lands must be managed so as to leave ample forage for any wildlife which is also a public owned resource. We also feel that the multiple use concept is applicable to much of our Crown Land however the multiple use of forage is the survival key to wildlife, wildlife must be given priority.

We recognize that a different condition exists from the Bow watershed and south generally being a hard grass area with exposed hillsides, whereas north of this line that being the Red Deer, Clear-water and Saskatchewan river basins most winter game range is river valley and/or deep snow areas.

Much could also be said about the economics of grazing stock on the east slopes or the need to use our agricultural land for livestock instead of grains or the potential and present value of this area lying

at the back door of 90% of our population.

We earnestly request, Sir, that you discontinue the issuing of grazing permits in the Clearwater and Red Deer Valleys and on any east slope area where such grazing is detriment to key winter game range or destroying creek banks and watersheds.

The final topic, Tourism which is well advertised by our Government and I feel recognized as a major consideration in our social and economic well being and it is apparent, has merited some budgetary considerations as well. I hasten to add that our Association has long felt that our Department of Lands and Forests and the Fish and Wildlife Division in particular, has been the poor cousin possibly getting the short end of the budget consideration, yet handling practically all the resources and attributes that give us wealth and a great tourist potential.

It should be made quite clear that our present and future tourist potential is and will be realized because we have Wilderness, clean rivers and streams, wildlife and fish to be seen or taken in this province. A recent poll of 3,000 potential United State's tourists who plan on visiting this province, 2,000 or 66% said they wanted to come to Alberta because we had fish and wildlife and wilderness to see and enjoy.

It is the hope of my Association that you, Sir, and your Cabinet will consider that we are not here like, I imagine, most delegates, for

their own personal gain, but we are asking for action on matters of public resource management that we feel hold wide public support and concern.

It is sincerely hoped that you, Sir, will see fit to take action on these various matters as well as provide funds necessary for the proper management of our Fish and Wildlife Division, that this important area of jurisdiction can keep pace with the demands being made upon it.

Thank you,

Elmer Kure

1. 11 Wilderness Area Policy - Considerations

1. 11. 1 Background

For well over two decades, the Alberta Fish and Game Association has expressed a view favouring establishment of designated wilderness areas, and for well over a decade have made specific requests of Government for such areas. These requests led to the first meeting in Alberta called by the Minister of Lands and Forests in early 1960 to consider setting aside areas of wilderness designation. It should be recorded that this first consideration for wilderness in Alberta had inputs from the Alberta Fish and Game, the Alberta Outfitters and the Association of Wildlife and Fishery Biologists and was attended by Chambers of Commerce and Tourist interests.

Following these requests the 159 square mile Siffleur and 488 square mile White Goat mountain areas were designated under the provisions of section 10 of the Forestry Act in 1961, and redesignated under the Regulations Act in 1965.

Again following further requests for additional areas such as in the Castle River, Elbow and Kananaskis areas south of the Bow and the need to investigate possiblities north of the Jasper Edson area, the 59 square mile Ghost River area was established under provisions of the Park Act section 8 in 1967.

It should be noted that during these years, the Wilmore Wilderness Park designation was given to a large area north of Jasper, however like the other designation for the Wilderness areas it did not in fact protect any area from commercial exploitation.

1. 11. 2 Philosophy

The general philosophy of members of this Association has been quite varied in respect to the size and accessability of Wilderness areas; however, the need to set aside areas where the natural values and wildlife could receive special protection was always recognized.

This rather general approach led to acceptance of a policy that Wilderness areas should be sizable areas where no commercial development or travel by motorized vehicle should occur, however, that traditional uses such as hunting and fishing would be acceptable.

Following a specific request by this Association to Cabinet in 1969 for additional Wilderness areas and a use policy in keeping with this approach, Bill 106 was tabled and withdrawn in 1970, and Bill 67 presented and passed by the Legislature in 1971.

This Association has as a matter of record, been the first in the field of concern for protection of the environment in this province, it has always been first in requesting legislation and regulation to conserve wildlife even if it meant closure of hunting of certain species.

It is because of this background philosophy, recognizing the need to retain large areas of virgin land that the Association has been able to provide some conscience to both Federal and Provincial Governments in the disposition of mountain areas. The proposed Federal Park Policy states that we are fortunate that large areas of wilderness border those parks on the east, while the provincial Government often claims that sufficient wilderness lies to the west in the National Parks, so encrochment is everywhere.

Recommendations

A. This Association favours the classification of land under a Prime use concept and thus endorses the Wilderness area designation of blocks or representative mountain, forest, and prairie land area.

B. We believe large undeveloped areas of land are essential to preserve part of our frontier heritage and the natural plant and animal life in these environments.

C. We believe a policy of balanced economics requires setting aside large restricted development areas in the long term interest of society particularily in the mountain region.

D. We further suggest Wilderness Areas Policy must prohibit use of any motorized vehicle, and that there be no change of a wilderness designation other than by the Legislature.

E. We favour the retention of an Advisory Committee to keep Government informed on the need for new areas, and drafting of regulations necessary to protect the natural wilderness aspect.

F. We believe the size and type of land area and populations of wildlife should be the deciding factor whether hunting or fishing is compatible for any wilderness area. We, therefore, recommend a brochure of Alberta Wilderness, listing the attributes and regulations for each area.

- NOTES -

ADVANCED HUNTER TRAINING PROGRAM

A. F. & G. A. Presentation to Cabinet - August 31st, 1972.

In order to clarify our presentation for an advanced hunter training program that will more adequately meet the needs of the licensed hunter and fisherman in our province, may I outline what has already transpired between representatives of our Association and various civil servants employed by the Department of Lands and Forests.

On April 17th of this year, representatives of our Association, together with representatives from the Education and Information Division and the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests, met with Dr. V. A. Wood, Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, to discuss the present hunter training program and where we feel that despite its merits as an excellent school and outdoor educational program, that it has failed in the past to meet the actual needs of the Alberta hunter and fisherman.

From this meeting with Dr. Wood it was agreed that the Department of Lands and Forests should set up a task force, with representation from those present, to review the present hunter training program and to recommend a specific program to meet the needs of the consumptive user of our renewable resources, whether they be hunters or fishermen.

On May 24th, a meeting of this task force was called by Mr. Gordon Kerr, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Division. Our day long discussion dealt in depth with the causes for the deterioration of the image of hunters and hunting as well as possible means by which this condition may be improved. It was concluded that an overall program must not only educate the anti-hunter of the desirable aspects of hunting as a means to harvest the annually determined surplus of game, but more important--that a shortened intensified course should be designed and conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Division to improve the resource users knowledge of the legal and moral aspects of hunting and fishing based on the

following tentative outline.

Intensified Hunter Training Course.

(a) Legislation - Alberta Wildlife Act and Regulations
- Migratory Birds Treaty Act
- Petty Trespass Act
- Criminal Code (related sections)
- Canada Wildlife Act (philosophy)
- Canada Fisheries Act and Alberta Regulations
- Regulation Procedures

(b) Principles of Management -

- fish - stream - lake
- waterfowl
- upland birds
- big game
- non-game

(c) Hunting Ethics -

- a privilege or a right
- vehicle use
- trespass permission
- gun handling
- rights of others
- campgrounds
- private property
- courtesy

(d) Firearms Handling -

- (1) Is it loaded?
  (2) Shooting - when
  - where
  - how
  (3) Firearms and vehicles
  (4) Your partner - how should he act?

The above four part advanced couse could be taken either before, after, or separately from the present 16 section, 300 page hunter training and conservation program, and a separate qualifying exam should be given.

In compliance with our long standing policy statement on mandatory training and testing of first time hunters and of persons renewing their hunting license that has been suspended, it is the firm request of our Association at this time that the government of Alberta approve the preliminary work already undertaken

and support an Order-in-Council to establish this specific program, including the printing of the advanced instruction booklet, and make this training a mandatory prerequisite for anyone obtaining an Alberta resident hunting license for the first time and for anyone renewing a hunting license that had been suspended for the more serious violations of the Wildlife Act.

Alberta Fish and Game Association,

L. "Budd" Traver.

Per: L. J. Traver,
Vice President at Large.

- NOTES -

CIVILIAN WILDLIFE PATROL PROGRAM

A. F. & G. A. Presentation to Cabinet - August 31st, 1972.

For years we have felt that the ratio of 130,000 licensed hunter in Alberta per 57 Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers was not adequate, but despite our expressed concern, we have been given no hope from government in the past that this ratio might be improved. Meanwhile, it is obvious that there is an increasing number of violations occurring. This number has more than doubled from the 700 convictions only ten years ago to the 1587 convictions last year. The alarming fact is that more than one-third of this increase (288 convictions) occurred in the past season without any massive increase in the number of hunters or anglers, and with a decrease in the field staff of game officers. Another disturbing fact is that the number of more serious infractions is increasing very rapidly.

Similar conditions prevailed in the State of Washington until a major sportsman's organization decided to make the battle against poaching a prime issue. This resulted in several meetings with the game department until their personnel in administrative positions were convinced that their principal hope in suppressing the increasing number of violations was through the co-operation and assistance that they might receive from the concerned hunters themselves and from the public at large.

As a result, the "Civilian Wildlife Patrol" program was established which constitutes a plan whereby all concerned hunters, citizens, and groups of organized sportsmen, such as our Alberta Fish and Game Association with a membership of over 20,000, could actively participate in various ways after proper instruction, to help local enforcement officers suppress all acts of firearm vandalism and hunting offences.

We have undertaken a study of this program, of its operation and results. Quite briefly, the program was created by the Washington Big Game Council to organize a corp of trained volunteer civilian observers to act as expert witnesses in their reported cases of game violations. Class instruction is provided by personnel of the Department of Game using a twenty minute colored slide program and information provided in the Civilian Wildlife Patrol manual. Their Regional Wildlife Agent reports to us that 5,000 civilian patrolmen have completed the course and although they have not contributed to a great extent in the number of arrests, he feels that the program has had a great psychological effect on the potential violator, thereby reducing the number of violations.

On May 25th, representatives of our Association met with Mr. Gordon Kerr, Director, and Mr. Grant Campbell, Chief Administrator, of the Fish and Wildlife Division, to outline the Civilian Wildlife Patrol program and to discuss the possibilities of a similar program working equally as well in Alberta. At that time we presented Mr. Kerr with a copy of the Washington manual and other material.

Since that time, other meetings have taken place between the Calgary Fish and Game Association and the Calgary Fish and Wildlife office. These meetings have actually resulted in a pilot project now being undertaken in the Calgary area. This group is using a manual adopted after the Washington Civilian Patrol manual with various amendments and additions prepared by the Calgary Fish and Wildlife office.

At our last Alberta Fish and Game Association Executive meeting a Notice of Motion was introduced to improve the public image of the hunter and to reverse the growing anti-hunting movement by forming a patrol committee within our own ranks. The motion requested that we ask for help and instruction from

the Fish and Wildlife administrative personnel and enforcement officers as to how we, as concerned citizens, could best be of material help in aiding in the detection and prosecution of illegal acts of hunting or firearm vandalism without the recognized authority of any kind to detain, interrogate, or seize evidence.

We are in agreement, however, that the initiative of such a program, in order to ensure its success, should come from the government. We do not expect that this will be done without the firm assurance from the entire membership of our Association that we will actively support the program to the limit. This commitment we now make to you in writing with the sincere request that immediate steps be taken to establish this program on a provincial wide basis.

We have reason to believe that others will also support the program including the landowner. This could be the beginning of a much needed co-operativ effort that could help ease the hunter-farmer situation. It is only due to the very seriousness of this situation, and the others that we have outlined, that our Association is willing to suggest anything that might make certain people think of us as vigilantes.

Our Association is convinced that something must soon be done and are in agreement with the theme of our elected government--that the time is NOW!

Alberta Fish and Game Association

Per: L. J. Traver,

L. "Budd" Traver

Vice President at Large.

- NOTES -

HABITAT STAMP

Honourable Premier and Members of the Executive Council

The Association welcomes the legislation permitting the institution of a Habitat Stamp but regrets that as yet, no use has been made of this Act.

Our representations to Government before and after this legislation extend over a long period and as a result, it is felt that the Association is in a good position to give Government an informed expression of the views and attitudes of the Alberta Sportsmen since the matter has now been discussed formally and informally at so many meetings of the Association and its affiliated clubs. These views are summarized in this memorandum.

There would be a greater public acceptance of a Habitat Stamp if the proceeds of which were to be devoted to permanent very long-term improvements in the sporting resources of Alberta, than there would be for an increase in license fees. The creation of a separate Habitat Fund is regarded as a protection of monies which would otherwise be open to appropriation for other purposes. There is a greater concern now than in the past about the environment and a separate stamp would identify a contribution to this concern. The Habitat Fund would finance a new extension of the Fish and Wildlife Department, which would be able to enter into long-term projects with the new funds provided. The Habitat Fund should provide for extraordinary expenditure to provide, restore and increase game fish

and game and its availability for sport in a lasting manner. Examples of the type of expenditure which hunters and fishermen would expect to be met from this Fund would be the purchase of creek and river banks for access and habitat retention, the possible damming of rivers of low productivity where the prime purpose will be an increase in fishing, stream improvement, the purchase and long-term leasing of marginal farming land as pheasant habitat, subsidizing payments to prevent the grazing of cattle in important game areas, the correcting or improvement of past mistakes in dam-building, foresting, highway construction or other desecration of habitat by pollution or otherwise. The research costs of such projects should also be carried by the Habitat Fund as otherwise the resources of the Fish and Wildlife Deparment migh not be adequate for this purpose.

It is also felt that the Habitat Fund would also provide a suitable vehicle to receive as a result of future legislation compensation payments for loss of fish and game as their habitat from lumbering, hydro-electric and other industrial uses of water, mining and petroleum development and industrial and municipal pollution.

The Association supports the concept that differing contributions might be made to the Habitat Fund for example, a Trail Stamp or a Pheasant Stamp, the resulting funds being allotted for preservation of those species as a Habitat Stamp for both Hunters and Fishermen

with extra payments for specified game or fish upon the same system as game tags.

Thank you

Hugh Douglas
Fish Chairman